

Vol. II, Issue 43

Victory Times



Telling the Camp Victory story

April 25, 2006

Run celebrates sacrifices made by Anzacs

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

MNC-I PAO

In celebration of Anzac Day, the 633rd Australian Headquarters Joint Task Force held the first Camp Victory Anzac Day Run, Sunday.

Over 400 registered runners took part in the run, which followed a 10km route around Camp Victory.

The runner to finish the route first was Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Simms, team chief, Multi-National Forces-Iraq, with a time of 34 minutes 50 seconds.

Cpl. Janine Davison and Signaler Nicholas April 23.

Baraba, 633rd HQJT, organized and controlled the whole event, drawing their inspiration from runs the American troops have put on in the past.

"There have been heaps of runs held by the Americans, so we thought we Aussies should hold one too," said Davison. "We thought if they could do it, so could we."

Anzac day, which is celebrated April 25, was first celebrated as a day that acknowledged the sacrifices made by the Australian New Zealand Army Corps during WWI. Their assault on the Gallipoli



Over 400 runners participated in the Australian led Anzac Day Run, April 23.

Peninsula was to open up the Black Sea for the Allied Navies. Ultimately, the campaign became a stalemate and eventually called off. Even so, the amphibious assault that was executed by the Anzacs is still used today as a model for a perfectly executed assault.

"This run was a really good opportunity for us Australians to share a

little bit of our culture with the coalition forces," said Davison.

Though Davison and Baraba agree that the event could have run a little smoother, they were pleased with the overall success.

"Considering it took about a month of planning, I was extremely pleased with the turnout," said Baraba.

Things may go wrong from time-to-time, but everyone seemed to have a good time and at the very least they got some good exercise, added Davison.

Precautionary measures needed as heat rises

Story by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

MNC-I PAO

With the upcoming summer heat that can reach well over 120 degrees, heat awareness and precautionary measures must be taken in order to keep Victory Base Complex functioning and mission capable.

While personal safety and health are priority, servicemembers should also be aware of the effects heat has on equipment and services, such as electricity, water and vehicles, said Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Hall, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Victory Base Mayor Cell.

During the summer season, Iraq receives little to no rain.

"Our water capacity will be challenged," said Hall.

In order to prevent undue water loss, all tenants should stick to water conservation policies. Some of the policies include: shorter showers, refrain from running water constantly, use of portable toilets as opposed to hard facilities and limit the washing of vehicles unless for maintenance and safety reasons.

"Overall, KBR has a very reliable system to keep us supplied with quality water," said Hall. "Even so, the tenants should do their part to help reduce the problem."

Power generation can also be effected by the heat. During the summer months, electricity can be wasted if use is not properly monitored, said Hall.

With air conditioners running constantly and people remaining indoors more and more, the power will start to feel the strain.

While the grid powers part of the see HEAT, page 3

In today's Victory Times:

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49th MP's mentor Ad Diwaniyah Police

Story and photo by Spc. Curt Squires

MNC-I PAO

In a city of roughly 400,000 people, law and order is a vital asset. The Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade, police transition team, is working to secure that for the people of Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq.

This is the year of the police, said Col. Don Currier, Deputy Commander, 49th MP Bde., California National Guard. The transition teams have the most important mission in country right now.

"Our mission is to mentor the administrative and leadership positions at the provincial headquarters with guidance from the 49th Brigade," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Braley, noncommissioned officer-incharge, Ad Diwaniyah PTT, Headquarters and Headquarters Support, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, Oklahoma National Guard.

The PTT team provides training and supplies to the Iraqi Police, he continued. One of the biggest accomplishments was getting the IPs to help themselves by ordering supplies and equipment through their chain of command and organizing their logistics.

The operations room, when the PTT arrived three months ago, was filled with sewage and trash, said Staff Sgt. Robert Landeros, operations sergeant, Ad Diwaniyah PTT, 49th MP Bde.

"Within a couple of weeks, they had it cleaned up, repainted it, re-floored it, had electricity and phone jacks installed," said Bralev.

"They did a great job too. They now have numerous base radios where they receive intelligence and dispatch to certain crime scenes," Braley continued.

The supplies and logistics systems chain was another great accomplishment, said Braley. Getting an on-hand property book and hand-receipt system proved to be a lot of work, but it will pay off in the long run.

Ordering the majority of the furniture and equipment through their own channels was a major accomplishment for their logistics system, said Landeros.

Despite the successes of the police, they still face many challenges before the IP's are capable to stand alone and be self-sufficient, said Braley.

The intelligence field is an area that needs work, he continued.

Under the Saddam Regime, instead of gathering intelligence,

they would go out and conduct investigations, and call it intelligence, said Braley.

"We're trying to get them into more of a military or police intelligence group, where they gather the intelligence, and then push it to operations and they conduct missions based on that intelligence," he added.

Intelligence is not the only area in which the IP's need help.

Corruption within the IP ranks continues to be a problem, said Braley.

"We had an incident here in Diwaniyah, where somebody put out the rumor that they were going to hire x number of personnel as an IP," He continued. "They showed up, and someone said if you pay me \$600 you'll be hired as an IP. So they paid this guy and he, along with money, disappeared.

"No one thought anything about it because that's the way it's always been done. If you want a job, you want this, you want that,

you have to pay," Braley continued.

The other major issue is motivating the IPs to engage the militias, said Braley.

"The general I work with on a daily basis is a great guy," Braley said, "but in his own words, 'if we go out there and arrest a bunch of Mahdi Militia, who is going to be there for us when they come with (rocket propelled grenades). Are the Coalition Soldiers going to come out with a show of force to defend us?""

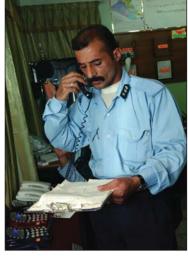
Despite the setbacks, the provisional headquarters has improved over the last three

months. The facility is now at a level three; meaning the station is more than 50 percent capable of handling their responsibilities and duties on their own.

One thing we are working with the police on is plotting crime patterns, said Landeros.

Over time, the IPs will be able to see the 'hot spots' around the cities and increase their patrols, in order to decrease the crime rate, said Braley.

In this, the year of the police, the Ad Diwaniyah PTT has made great strides, said Landeros. They have a lot of work to do, but the city is headed in the right direction.



An Iraqi Police officer in AD Diwaniyah, am Iraq, answers an emergency call and of logs it in their operations room.

Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Wednesday



Partly Cloudy High: 85 F

Low: 66 F

Thursday



Sunny High: 88 F

Low: 66 F

Friday



Partly Cloudy High: 94 F

Low: 67 F

Emergency Leaves

By Sgt. 1st Class Libbie Adams, Inspector General's Office, MNC-I

Often while Soldiers are deployed, family emergencies arise on the home front and Soldiers need to return home for a period of time. Army Regulation 600-8-10, Leaves and Passes, and the Joint Federal Travel Regulation govern emergency leaves for all Soldiers. Additionally, CFLCC Policy Memorandum OPL-SUST-08 outlines and establishes rules and procedures for emergency leave for Soldiers assigned/attached to units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Service members of the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coalition Forces assigned or attached in support of OIF on the other hand, are required to process emergency leave in accordance with policies and procedures of their service regulations.

Soldiers may request emergency leave with or without American Red Cross verification. The unit commander is the approval authority and may request verification of the emergency through the field director, American Red Cross, or, if necessary, from the military activity nearest the location of the emergency. Commanders may authorize emergency leave up to 30 days for emergency situations pertaining to immediate family members or a person determined to be "in loco parentis."

The following are considered immediate family members: parents (including step-parents), spouse, children (including step-children), siblings (including step-siblings) and only living blood relative. A person in loco parentis is one who stood in place of a parent to the Soldier or the Soldier's spouse for 24 hours a day, for at least a 5-year period before the Soldier or the Soldier's spouse became 21 years of age. The person must have provided a home, food, clothing, medical care, and other necessities as well as furnished moral and disciplinary guidance and affection. A grandparent or other person normally is not considered to have stood in place of a person when the parent also lived at the same residence. A person is not considered "in loco parentis" for performing baby-sitting or providing day care services.

Here are the guidelines for authorizing emergency leave:

- (1) When the Soldier's presence contributes to the welfare of a terminally ill member of the immediate family and when the expected date of death is within the month;
- (2) Because of the death of an immediate family member or local parentis;
- (3) For a serious situation involving accident, illness, or major surgery that cannot be postponed due to the urgency of the medical condition. The situation must result in a serious family problem. The family problem must impose important responsibilities on the Soldier that must be met immediately and cannot be accomplished from his duty station or by any other individuals or by other means;
- (4) Because the Soldier is affected personally by a disaster (for example, hurricane, tornado, or flood) or when severe or unusual hardship would be encountered if the Soldier failed to return home.

Emergency leave is chargeable leave and Soldiers may use either accrued, advanced, excess leave or a combination. The important thing to remember is that even though a Red Cross message exists, it does not guarantee that a Soldier will automatically be granted emergency leave. Commanders make the final determination on granting emergency leave on a case-by-case basis.

HEAT-

camp, many generators share the load with the grid, however the generators are not designed for primary use.

"It's simple common sense," said Hall. "If you do not have to use power, shut it off."

Even though the power can be a problem, all primary mission necessities have extremely reliable backup generation. If worst comes to worse, the base will be

able to complete its mission, said Hall.

Health risks are always present with extreme heat.

As the heat continues to rise, the level of pests grow also, adding to health risks.

To help with this problem, preventive medicine systematically checks the pest levels. If the levels are too high, they will take necessary measures to relieve the problem.

Due to the accumulative affects of heat,

the risks grow greater as time wears on.

"It's not the first day, it's the third day," said Hall. "Soldiers need to be aware of their limitations as well as the limitations of their equipment."

All-in-all, Victory Base Complex is well prepared for the risks, he added.

"Some things may be out for a little while but not for an extended period of time," said Hall. "Our primary mission will be accomplished."





Chaplain's corner

Will God Forget Me?

"Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you." Isaiah 49.15c

Late last night, staring at the ceiling, I was trying to get to sleep to no avail. Like many of us, I continue to miss my wife, children and our first grand daughter, Lindsey Brooke Herring. I asked myself, "Will little 2-year-old Lindsey forget her Opa"? So, here I am in the land of Abraham feeling quite lonely for home, hearth, family and friends, and my hearts asks, "Will God forget me, too?"

Then I remembered the Prophet Isaiah and his affirming Word from God, "Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you." You see, God never is so preoccupied or neglectful toward me as one of His children. The earlier portion of verse 15 has a moving analogy – "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her

womb?" God is saying that it would be more likely for a mother to forget her child than for Him to forget me!

I'm not so old that I've forgotten the maternal images of our two sons as infants with their mother. Mrs. Herring has, even now, a tight zeroed in sensitivity to our two sons (our "baby" a 1LT in the 82nd Airborne Division and our "first born" a Pepsi Route Salesman). I remember than even if the boys were in another



CH (MAJ) Charles M. Herring **Religious Support Operations** MNC-I Chaplain Office

room Wanda "knew" when it was time to feed and care for them. She never became so preoccupied with other things that she neglected the boys.

Isn't it wonderful that God chose this imagery to describe how He looks after me? Think about it - God is more sensitive to my needs as one of his children than even the most loving and caring mother. God anticipates my every cry for help, guidance and wisdom. Even before I can call it out, God is responding with His answer - "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." (Isaiah 65:24) This is singularly the most comforting promise God has given me – that He will never forget me.

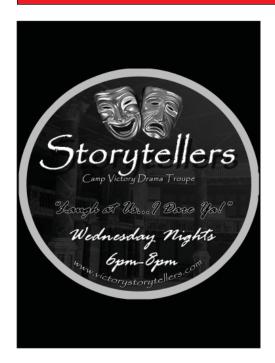
I must not let the difficult circumstances of this or any deployment convince me that my Father has forgotten me. I must

not even assume that He is more concerned with the needs of other, more significant, more spiritual people than He is me. God's Word shows me that He looks upon me with the same love, interest, and concern as a mother would look upon her children. It is reassuring to know that my Heavenly Father loves me like so much!

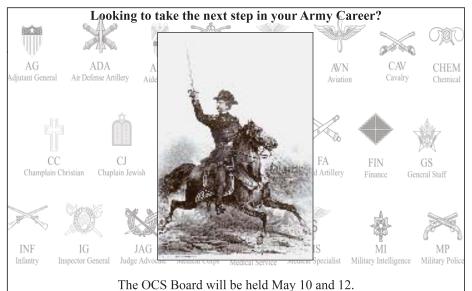
With that reassuring spirit in my heart I can now truly rest in body and spirit - Good night soldiers! Remember, God will not forget you!

Letters from home

Major (Chaplain) Charles M. Herring, Religious Support Operations, MNC-I Chaplain's Office. Enjoy reading your articles in the Victory Times on the internet! Nice to see your smiling face as it is truly missed here at home. Continue to stay safe and know we love you and pray for you daily. Love, Mama, Susan and Ladydog.

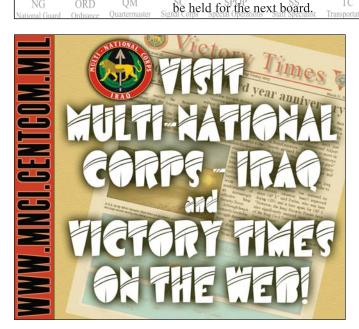






The OCS packets will be accepted by the PSB until 1 May 2006. The APFT date must be after 31 Dec 2005 and the packet must be complete. Any packets turned in after 1 May will not be accepted for the May Board but will



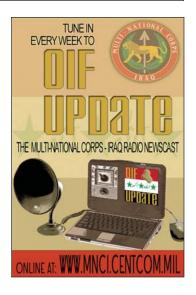




CAMP VICTORY BOXING SHOW Saturday, April 29

- Boxers Wanted. Open to all U.S., Coalition, & Contract personnel. Male/Female. All weight classes & levels of experience welcome.
- Mandatory meeting for boxers & coaches Friday, April 21 @ 7:30 p.m., Camp Victory Gym.
- Mandatory pre-fight weigh-in Friday, April 28 @ 7:30 p.m., Camp Victory Gym.
- Event will be held Saturday, April 29 @7:30 p.m. near the Camp Victory Gym.
- Contact Sgt Patrick Bierenday at DSN: 822-3266, patrick.bierenday@us.army.mil for further information.





Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a m Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m. Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Shopette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m. Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



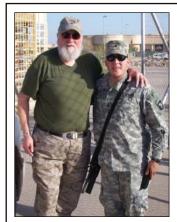


TO THE AL FAW PALACE POST OFFICE

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Wed. 2 - 8 p.m. Sun. 2 - 8 p.m.

Contact Camp Liberty Post Office for any questions. DSN 302-242-4391



Sgt. Eden Puente, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, poses for a photo with Charlie Daniels, April 18. Charlie Daniel's Band performed for the troops at Camp Victory. (Courtesy Photo)

SAFETY ALERT



HEADQUARTERS

FICI-GA-SA

ALERT

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Hazards caused by improper use of extension cords and power strips

- 1. One of the most common causes of fires in theater is the overloading of circuits. his is caused from the improper use of power strips and extension cords
- 2. Most locations are wired to provide ample outlets in each room. Overloading outlets with multiple plug connectors or extensions cords is very dangerous. If this happens, circuits may become overloaded, causing the wires to melt and possibly igniting a fire. Just because there is an open plug does not mean the
- 3. NEVER daisy chain extension cords; they are designed for the lengths that they are manufactured
- 4. LEARN the limits of extension cords and power strips, use them accordingly.
- 5. ENSURE fire extinguishers are available and is rated for the fire hazards that

AVOIDANCE MEASURES: INSPECT all working and living areas for these types of hazards. DISCONNECT all excess items, daisy chained power strips and daisy chained extension cords. Ensure everyone understands the proper use of extension cords and power strips. All personnel must be trained on the proper use of fire extinguishers.





ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS
YELLOW HASH 06-10 POC MNC-I Safety Office, 822-4049

SAFETY ALERT

Rock & Roll Marathon and Half-Marathon April 29, 6 a.m. - Noon Camp Speicher, Tikrit

To register for the race and schedule temporary lodging contact Capt. Janet Tye at Janet.tye@us.army.mi

NOTE:

Marathon = 26.2 miles

1/2 Marathon = 13.1 miles



If you're interested in getting on an ASR to Fly from Victory to Speicher on the 28th contact Capt. Patrick Stich NLT 1200 on 23 April At DSN 318-822-2121

patrick.stich@centcom.iraq.mil

Return trip will be on you.

Submit letters from home

ALERT

SAFETY

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



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